



February 22, 2023

Maryland House Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of SB 346 / HB 260: Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act**

Members of the Maryland Senate's Education, Energy & Environment Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 plus members fully support SB 346 / HB 260.

We support any bill that improves access to qualified ASL services, licensing ASL interpreters, while helping to improve inclusion and equity in all major life settings for persons living with disabilities. Including improvements to access while interacting within medical, legal and local / state government entities and operations.

For these citizens, ASL interpreters are as basic as eyeglasses for sight, or ramps & elevators for those who may struggle with walking up or down stairs. This bill is about improving quality of services, community engagement and ensuring that more citizens are included in so many of life's major activities. Including full and meaningful participation in medical, legal and government operations.

We thank the Delegate for bringing forward such a positive and transformative piece of legislation. It truly will have a positive impact on all of Maryland's citizens, and help give them agency in all governmental matters and in other aspects of their lives.

We ask that the committee please return a favorable report, and support SB 346 / HB 260.

Thank you all for your time and consideration of our testimony.

Respectfully,

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